

# Library Quarterly

SPRING 2026

Seed Library Returns p.3

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Green Card Youth Voices p.12

Kid Entrepreneurs Sell Their Wares p.18



*the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library*



## Message from the Director

Anne Rasmussen

Dear Community:

Midwest winters can be tough, with short daylight hours and temperatures dipping below zero. Here at your library, we are taking advantage of the "indoor weather" to reflect, assess, and plan for the future.

We are always looking for opportunities to use resources more efficiently and effectively. Of course we crunch the numbers (like how many people are checking out books or signing up for programs), but we also rely on your feedback (through comment cards, emails, and even your quick chats with staff). Together, these things help us decide when to grow a popular program, when to try something new, and when it's time to sunset an offering that isn't being used anymore.

One thing that both the data and your feedback have told us: **to meet your needs, we need more space.**

Top priorities include:

- A shorter walk from the parking lot
- A makerspace
- More study rooms, dedicated space for group collaboration, and more quiet areas
- A larger area for children
- More meeting space for library programs
- Spaces for piano recitals and service group meetings
- More efficient heating and cooling systems that address rising energy costs

Planning for a building redesign and expansion has been a major focus for the past two years. Now we need your input about the construction plan and associated expenses. Watch for announcements about next steps or sign up for updates at: [VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan](https://VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan).

Onward to the new growth of spring!

## Library Quarterly

Christy Stroud, *Managing Editor*

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p.3 Alexandra Brackenheimer

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## Leadership

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ben Isabel, *Treasurer*

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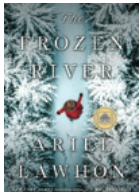
# A Year of Service

*Your library delivered great value and top-notch library services in 2025.  
Here are some of the highlights:*

We added access to...

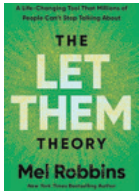
# 4,918,135

...more physical items in the catalog thanks to a smart new partnership with neighboring libraries.



#### TOP ADULT FICTION

**The Frozen River**  
by Ariel Lawhon



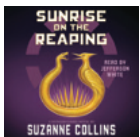
#### TOP NONFICTION E-BOOK

**The Let Them Theory**  
by Mel Robbins



#### TOP YOUTH FICTION

**My Hero Academia**  
by Kōhei Horikoshi



#### TOP YOUTH DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK

**Sunrise on the Reaping**  
by Suzanne Collins



#### MOST-STREAMED ALBUM ON HOOPLA

**K-Pop Demon Hunters Soundtrack**

#### CIRCULATION

# 813,549

*that's the equivalent of 2,225 checkouts every day*

*“you guys are awesome!”*

#### Exciting upgrades we've made this year:

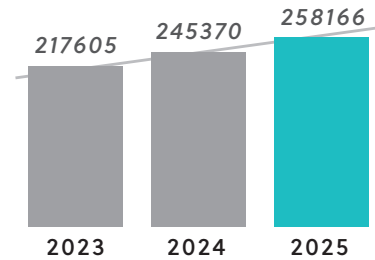
- patrons got a modern new library catalog experience when we joined CCS
- “Library of Things” and “Library of Things Junior” collections got new displays and packaging
- e-books in Chinese, Korean, Polish, Russian and Spanish are now available in Libby
- added a third 3D printer to keep up with demand
- more than 13,000 seed packets were distributed in the first full year of the Seed Library



## VISITS

# 258,166

*Busiest times: afternoons and weekends*  
*Busiest months: June and July*



*Visits have increased 19% over the past two years*

## 45,602

attended a library program



## 5,327

people visited the  
Library Learning Garden

## 12,366

people used a study room



## REFERENCE HELP

# 21,914

questions answered at  
the desk or by phone,  
text or email

## CARDHOLDERS

# 20,027



## OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY

*We connected with 21,083 of you at community events*  
*assembled 3,280 craft kits and 1,200 Little Play Boxes*  
*made 2,427 delivery visits to folks at assisted living facilities*  
*and curated 347 loan packages for teachers and preschools*





# Growing Together

## The Seed Library Returns March 2

After opening last year, around 2,000 visitors took approximately 13,000 seed packets from 95 different varieties to plant in their gardens. The most popular seeds were zinnia, marigold, cayenne pepper, basil, and several varieties of milkweed. Around 3,600 native seeds packets from 28 varieties were distributed. Library patron Alexandra B. took her seeds, and created opportunities for connection as she grew and nurtured a garden together with her mother and daughters.

"Our family benefitted tremendously from the Seed Library," Alexandra said. "We were able to grow vegetables and herbs, educate the girls about gardening, and get them excited enough to try new foods (a huge success in its own right). It has been amazing to see, and we are hoping for even greater success this summer."

Alexandra and her family grew dill, eggplant, spicy peppers, and cucumbers from Seed Library seeds. The most popular seed requests were for okra, more hot peppers, and more tomatoes. All these and more will be available to pick up when the Seed Library returns on Monday, March 2.

***"[The Seed Library] not only allows you to be part of a larger community, but—just as a great library does—it educates our family,"***

said Alexandra. "The gardening books available at the library make it possible to learn about a specific topic, then immediately put that knowledge into practice by checking out seeds and growing them ourselves."

The Seed Library is a great way to try new plants without a financial commitment. Borrow seeds, cultivate them into beautiful gardens, and return some of your seeds at the end of the season (optional) to keep the library sustainable.

Learn more about the Seed Library, and see what seeds are available at [VAPLD.info/SeedLibrary](http://VAPLD.info/SeedLibrary).

*Above right: Amelia B. cares for the family's hot pepper plant.*

*Above left: Alexandra's mom, Maria R., shows off the dill they grew from seed.*



### Starting a Garden from Seed

Discover the secrets to successful seed starting and how to grow strong, healthy seedlings ready for your garden with garden coach Amy Powers.

Wednesday, March 4, 7–8 pm

# The Year of Wellness

*Fostering healthy minds & bodies together*

Wellness is an ongoing process and a life-long journey. Together as a library community, we are going to learn how to foster healthy minds and bodies. Over the next year, we'll explore how choices for healthy eating, fitness, creativity, and emotional wellness all contribute to overall well-being.



**Interview with Vicki  
Shanta Retelny, RDN, LDN  
Wellness Fellow**

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This spring, the focus is on how nutrition contributes to healthy bodies and minds. Attend lectures and discussions to examine how mindful food choices can improve physical and mental health, boost resilience to stress, and prevent illness.

We're partnering with Vicki Shanta Retelny, a nationally recognized lifestyle nutrition expert and author, as our official Wellness Fellow during this quarter. Vicki will share her experience with empowering people to eat nourishing foods and make choices that foster health and happiness for life. She is the author of two books, *The Essential Guide to Healthy Healing Foods* and *Total Body Diet For Dummies*®.

We asked Vicki to share her thoughts about cultivating a healthy lifestyle:

## **What do you hope our patrons gain from our collaboration?**

My hope is to infuse excitement and enthusiasm for nutrition by embracing new foods, creating a better understanding of the relationship between nutrition and total body health, as well as discovering fun ways to get in the kitchen to create simple and delicious meals—the goal is to make good nutrition easy and accessible for all.

## **Describe the connection between nutrition and emotional wellness.**

What you eat is an integral part of emotional well-being, as it affects your mood, energy levels, and overall outlook on life. The gut-brain connection plays an integral role with nutrient-rich foods (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and seafood), boosting mood-regulating neurotransmitters in the brain and reducing inflammation in the body. A healthy gut supports mental clarity and resilience.



## What are some tips for sticking with a nutrition plan?

The key is to keep it simple. Meals don't have to be complicated or gourmet to be nourishing. Balance meals with protein and produce, as well as moderate starches and fats for satiety. Create a schedule of eating, grocery shop regularly to keep nourishing foods in the house, and don't feel like you have to be perfect. If you veer off-plan, get right back on at the next eating opportunity. Nourishing the body well is a daily practice over time – not a temporary plan.

Vicki will share more about how nutrition affects the body and mind in two programs this spring, "Food & Mood," and "Hormones & Menopause." Sign up to attend these, and other nutrition-related programs, at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/calendar).

## Learn more about nutrition at these wellness programs:

### Starting a Garden from Seed

See pg. 3 for description.

Wednesday, March 4, 7–8 pm

### Nourish & Flourish Cookbook Club

Choose any healthy-eating cookbook that interests you, then come ready to discuss what you enjoyed, what surprised you, or what you'd recommend.

Wednesday, March 18, 7–8 pm

 Half Day Brewing

### Documentary Screening: *Cafeteria Man*

The true story of rebel chef Tony Geraci and his mission to radically reform Baltimore's public school food system with a recipe for change.

Monday, April 6, 7–8:30 pm

### Food & Mood

Learn about the connection between diet and mental health with lifestyle nutrition expert and author Vicki Shanta Retelny. Explore the science and learn about the nutrients that support mental well-being, foods that negatively impact mood, and lifestyle factors that enhance the food and mood connection.

Thursday, April 16, 7–8 pm

### Cook Along with Chef Kristyn: Earth Day

GRADES K–8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Friday, April 17, 7–8 pm 

### Hormones & Menopause

Unpack midlife hormonal changes and the "metabolic crisis" of menopause with Vicki Shanta Retelny. Get practical lifestyle steps to support muscle, insulin balance, weight, and overall health.

Wednesday, April 29, 7–8 pm 

### *Green Gold: The Avocado's Remarkable Journey from Humble Superfood to Toast of a Nation* with Author Monique Parsons

Trace how avocados moved from being a regional Latin American staple to starring in Super Bowl ads and becoming a wellness icon with author Monique Parsons. Book signing to follow.

Tuesday, May 19, 7–8 pm

### *Did you know?*

Vernon Township Food Pantry provides nutritionally balanced food monthly to 275 families in need of assistance. Consider bringing a nutritious item to the collection bins in the lobby on your next visit.

## Featured Resources for Adults



### Free New York Times Access

Pass the paywall. Get unlimited 24-hr access to the full world of the *New York Times*, including games, cooking, *Wirecutter*, and *The Athletic*.  
[VAPLD.info/NYT](https://vapl.org/info/NYT)



### Fix it Yourself

Find detailed, user-friendly "how-to" information covering a variety of do-it-yourself home improvement and repair projects.  
[VAPLD.info/HomelImprovement](https://vapl.org/info/HomelImprovement)



### Trace Family History

Learn more about your family history by following your ancestors' paper trails. Free to use within the library.  
[VAPLD.info/Ancestry](https://vapl.org/info/Ancestry)

## Classes & Events for Adults

All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛️ in-person, 🟢 online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/info/calendar) or call 224-543-1485.

### One Book One Community Finale: Author Event with Ann Napolitano

Ann Napolitano shares inspiration and insights behind this year's selection, *Hello Beautiful*.

Sun, March 1, 1–2 pm 🏛️ 🟢 Stevenson HS

### Shakespeare Project of Chicago Presents *Richard II*

A live theatrical reading of the tragic story of a proud king who loses his throne and power after misruling his kingdom and being overthrown by his cousin.

Monday, March 2, 6:30–9 pm

### Starting a Garden from Seed

See pg. 3 for description.

Wednesday, March 4, 7–8 pm

### Volunteer Fair **TEENS & ADULTS**

Connect with a variety of nonprofits and local municipal offices to learn about volunteer opportunities available to you. Visit [VAPLD.info/VolunteerFair](https://vapl.org/info/VolunteerFair) for details.

Sunday, March 8, 1–3 pm

### The Women: A Story of Two Army Nurses in Vietnam

Actress Lynn Rymarz weaves the fictional story of Army Nurse Frances McGrath from *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and the true story of Army Nurse Lynda Van Devanter from her memoir *Home Before Morning*.

Wednesday, March 11, 1–2 pm

### Green Card Youth Voices Speaker Series

See pg. 12 for details.

Sunday, March 15, 1–2:30 pm



*Aztec Dance Cultural Performance, March 22*

### Classically Celtic Concert

An enchanting concert that blends timeless Celtic melodies and classical artistry.

Tuesday, March 17, 1–2 pm

### Steps to U.S. Citizenship

Learn how to apply for or renew a permanent resident card (green card) and secure U.S. citizenship with a local immigration attorney.

Wednesday, March 18, 7–8 pm

### Nourish & Flourish Cookbook Club

See pg. 5 for description.

Wed, March 18, 7–8 pm Half Day Brewing

### Aztec Dance Cultural Performance

Celebrate ancient Mexico through music, song, and dance with Chicago's Xochitl-Quetzal Aztec Dance. Part of the MOSAIC cultural series.

Sunday, March 22, 1–2 pm

### Civic Empowerment Series: An Introduction to News Media Literacy

Explore today's messy media landscape and leave with practical skills for evaluating sources and building a reliable set of trustworthy outlets.

Tuesday, March 31, 7–8 pm

Schaumburg Library

### Documentary Screening: *Cafeteria Man*

See pg. 5 for description.

Monday, April 6, 7–8:30 pm

## Author Spotlight

Exclusive online interviews with today's most compelling authors. Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speaker's Consortium.

### Michael Perry, Humorist and *NYT* Bestselling Author

Wednesday, March 4, 1–2 pm

### Kate Quinn, *The Astral Library*

Thursday, March 12, 6–7 pm

### Barbara Kingsolver with Shoshana Walter

Tuesday, March 24, 1–2 pm

### Valerie Neal, Smithsonian Department of Space History

Thursday, April 2, 1–2 pm

### Brad Taylor, *NYT* Bestselling Author, Pike Logan series

Tuesday, April 14, 6–7 pm

### Miranda Cowley Heller, *What the Deep Water Knows: Poems*

Wednesday, April 22, 1–2 pm

### Marjan Kamala, *Lion Women of Tehran*

Thursday, May 7, 7–8 pm

### Nir Eyal, *Beyond Belief*

Tuesday, May 19, 1–2 pm

*Kate Quinn,  
March 12*



*Michael Perry,  
March 4*





*Cielito Lindo, May 14*

### **Art Lecture: Alphonse Mucha, the Poster Boy for Art Nouveau**

Explore how Alphonse Mucha catapulted from obscurity to the "Godfather of Art Nouveau," transforming him into the most recognized artist of his time.

Wednesday, April 8, 1–2 pm

### **Road Trip to Indiana Amish Country**

Discover the culture, history, food, and attractions of this region.

Wednesday, April 15, 1–2 pm

### **Wellness Series: Food & Mood**

See pg. 5 for description.

Thursday, April 16, 7–8 pm

### **Kid Market Sale Day**

See pg. 19 for details.

Saturday, April 18, 1–3 pm

### **Life of the Civil War Soldier**

Emily Metzel of the Kenosha Civil War Museum takes you through the daily life of a Civil War soldier, revealing the resilience and human side of those who served.

Tuesday, April 21, 1–2 pm

### **Shakespeare Project of Chicago Presents *The Witch***

A full, live theatrical reading by the Shakespeare Players of Chicago.

Monday, April 27, 6–9 pm

### **Wellness Series: Hormones and Menopause**

See pg. 5 for description.

Wednesday, April 29, 7–8 pm 

### **Compost Give Back Event**

Get your garden ready for spring with free nutrient-rich soil. Bring your own 5-gallon buckets (max 20 gallons).

Sun, May 3, 9 am–12 pm  Spring Lake Park

### **Debating Independence: The American Revolution in 1776**

Learn how a doubtful America embraced independence through royal blunders, persuasive writing, and the rising threat of war with historian Joyce Haworth.

Monday, May 4, 1–2 pm

### **Art Workshop: Pop-Up Wildflowers**

Create three beautiful pop-up spring wildflowers with paper engineer Shawn Sheehy.

Tuesday, May 12, 4:30–6 pm or 6:30–8 pm

### **Concert: Cielito Lindo, Music of Mexico**

Blending the vibrant sounds of guitar, violin, and voices, this talented duo from Cielito Lindo, infuses every performance with warmth, energy and emotion.

Thursday, May 14, 1–2 pm

### **Own the Interview: Preparation that Reduces Interview Anxiety**

Build a Story Vault of accomplishments to make your value clear, script confident first lines with powerful, intentional language, and sketch a simple 90-Day Plan that signals your readiness.

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30–8 pm 

### **Green Gold: The Avocado's Remarkable Journey from Humble Superfood to Toast of a Nation with Author Monique Parsons**

See pg. 5 for description.

Tuesday, May 19, 7–8 pm

## Maker & Technology Classes

### Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized crafts. Supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other projects.

Tuesday, March 10, 6:30–8:30 pm

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30–8:30 pm

Monday, May 4, 6:30–8:30 pm

### Maker Class: Felt Animals

Hand sew and use embroidery to embellish small felt animals.

Thursday, March 12, 6:30–8:30 pm

### Microsoft Word

Develop your skills in this word processing tool.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm

March 19: Basics

March 26: Formatting

April 2: Advanced Topics

### Hands-On Intro to AI Tools

After a quick intro, jump in and discover AI tools with guided, hands-on exploration.

Wednesday, March 25, 7–8:30 pm

Sunday, April 19, 11 am–12:30 pm

### Microsoft Excel

Choose the sessions that interest you.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm

March 24: Basics

March 31: Formulas & Functions

April 7: Functions 2

April 14: Functions 3

April 21: Pivot Tables

### Maker Class: Crochet a Chicken

Thursday, April 9, 6:30–8:30 pm

### Creating with Canva

Learn how to use Canva to create a design that can be printed on a mug using our sublimation printer (available in Open Makerspace classes).

Thursday, April 23, 7–8 pm

### Maker Class: Polymer Clay Earrings

Materials provided. No experience needed.

Thursday, May 14, 6:30–8:30 pm

### Restoring Photos with GIMP

An introduction to GIMP, a free, open-source alternative to Photoshop.

Tuesday, May 26, 7–8:30 pm

## Financial Fitness Series

A free online series designed to help you make informed financial decisions with confidence. Presented by BIG (Business Interest Group), a network of business librarians committed to providing reliable information.

### Budgeting & Savings Basics

Break down budgeting and introductory saving and investment strategies.

Thursday, April 9, 7–8:30 pm 

### Buying a Home: The Basics

Learn about loan applications, credit basics, down payments, and the players in the home-buying process.

Monday, April 13, 7–8:30 pm 

### Retirement Reality

CBS News Business Analyst Jill Schlesinger, CFP, walks through the specific steps necessary to get you where you want to go, whether just starting off in your career or ready to wind down.

Tuesday, April 21, 7–8:30 pm 

## Meetups & Discussions

### Games for Grown-ups

Play tabletop games together at the library or online. Open to all skill levels.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm  

March 1, 29; April 12; May 17

### English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm

March 3, 17; April 7, 21; May 5, 19

### Spinning Yarns: Knit & Crochet Group

Connect with fellow yarn lovers in a friendly and creative space. All levels welcome.

Wednesdays, 10–11 am

March 4, April 1, May 6

### Novel Night Book Discussion

Tuesdays, 7–8:15 pm

March 10: *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henriquez

May 19: *The Paris Novel* by Ruth Reichl

### Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am

March 12: *Songs for the Brokenhearted* by Ayelet Tsabari

April 9: *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger

May 14: *Shred Sisters* by Betsy Lerner

### Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 

March 12, May 14

### Great Decisions Discussion Group

Fridays, 1–2:30 pm 

March 13, May 8

Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12 pm 

March 18, April 15, May 20

### Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm 

March 13: *Blow Out* (R)

April 10: *Nightcrawler* (R)

May 8: *House of Games* (R)

### Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

Discuss over adult beverages and delicious food. For adults in their 20s and 30s.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm  Half Day Brewing

March 19, April 16, May 21

### Choose Your Own Adventure: A Book Club

Silently read your own book or audiobook for an hour, then choose to continue reading or chat with others. Snacks provided.

Monday, March 23, 6:30–8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30–8:30 pm

### Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online. All skill levels welcome.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 

March 24, April 28, May 26

### Memory Café

Connect monthly with other individuals with memory loss and their caregivers for socialization and fun, interactive programs.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm  Alcott Center

March 26, April 23, May 28

### World Language Movie Discussion: *Io Capitano*

Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesday, April 29, 7–8 pm 

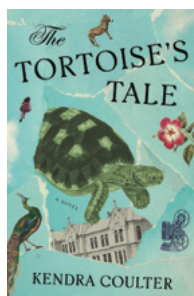
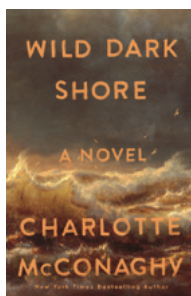
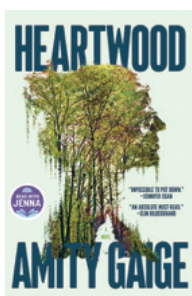
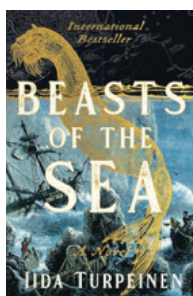
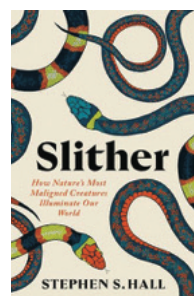
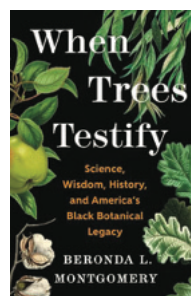
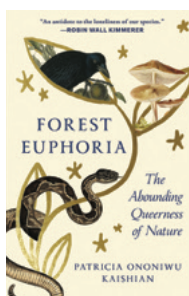
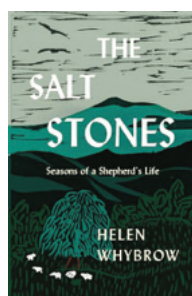
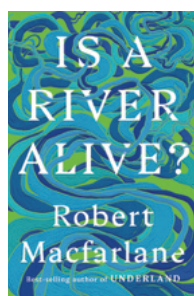


# Librarian Picks

## Green Reads



Get in the springtime spirit with these nature-inspired reads! Discover something new about the natural world with eye-opening nonfiction, or immerse yourself in fiction that explores the human-nature connection.



**Turning to Birds**  
by Lili Taylor

**Is a River Alive?**  
by Robert Macfarlane

**The Salt Stones**  
by Helen Whybrow

**Forest Euphoria**  
by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian

**When Trees Testify**  
by Beronda L. Montgomery

**Slither**  
by Stephen S. Hall

**Bog Queen**  
by Anna North

**Beasts of the Sea**  
by Iida Turpeinen

**Heartwood**  
by Amity Gaige

**Helm**  
by Sarah Hall

**Wild Dark Shore**  
by Charlotte McConaghy

**The Tortoise's Tale**  
by Kendra Coulter

# GREEN CARD YOUTH VOICES:

Immigration Stories from Chicago High Schools



## Green Card Youth Voices Exhibit

The Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from Chicago High Schools exhibit is a community storytelling project presented by Green Card Voices in collaboration with three Chicago area high schools, including Stevenson High School. Made possible through local partnerships and educator support, this initiative uplifts the firsthand narratives of twenty immigrant and refugee youth representing nineteen countries across five continents.

Through a traveling exhibit and companion book, the project highlights deeply personal stories of displacement, resilience, and belonging. Each student shares their journey—fleeing war, navigating new languages, and finding community in Chicago—offering an intimate look into the strength and diversity that shape the city's immigrant experience. Together, these stories foster empathy, understanding, and pride in Chicago's vibrant multicultural identity.

Visit the exhibit at the library from March 1–31, and hear students share their stories at the Green Card Youth Voices Speaker Series on Sunday, March 15.

This program is part of MOSAIC, a premier series of cultural programs for adults. MOSAIC is made possible by the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District with major support from the Goldstein Family Foundation.

### **Green Card Youth Voices Speaker Series** TEENS & ADULTS

Hear honest reflections from students on their journeys, their dreams, and what it means to build a new life in an unfamiliar land.

Sunday, March 15, 1–2:30 pm



# Classes & Events for Teens

All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted ( off-site,  online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

## Holiday Arts & Crafts **ALL AGES**

Drop in to celebrate holidays with craft projects.

Tuesday, March 3, 4–7 pm: Holi & Purim

Saturday, March 21, 11 am–2 pm: Ramadan & Eid

## Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion

**GRADES 6–8**

Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk after registering.

7–8 pm

Thursday, March 5: *The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn* by Sally J. Pla

Tuesday, April 28: TBD

## Volunteer Fair **TEENS & ADULTS**

Connect with a variety of nonprofits and local municipal offices to learn about volunteer opportunities available to you. Visit [VAPLD.info/VolunteerFair](https://vapl.org/volunteerfair) for details.

Sunday, March 8, 1–3 pm

## STEAM Workshop **GRADES 5–8**

Celebrate Women's History Month with an interactive workshop in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math led by the Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM.

Monday, March 9, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

## Cook Along with Chef Kristyn

**THRU GRADE 8**

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 

March 13: Nailed It Challenge

April 17: Earth Day

May 15: Berry Sweets

## Off the Page: A Teen Book Club

**GRADES 8–12**

Meet at Culver's and add your voice to the banter while enjoying frozen custard (our treat!).

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm  Culver's Lincolnshire

March 16: *Song of a Blackbird* by Maria van Lieshout

April 20: *Snowglobe* by Soyoung Park

## Aztec Dance Cultural Performance

**ALL AGES**

Celebrate ancient Mexico through music, song, and dance with Chicago's Xochitl-Quetzal Aztec Dance, honoring the Conchero indigenous tradition. Part of the MOSAIC cultural series.

Sunday, March 22, 1–2 pm

## Mandala Painting **GRADES 6–12**

Create your own mandala using dots and paint.

Tuesday, March 24, 3–4:30 pm

## Teen Service Club **GRADES 7–12**

Meet new people, participate in a variety of community service projects, and earn volunteer service hours when it fits your schedule. No application, no training, and no library card needed.

Wednesday, March 25, 7–8 pm

Saturday, May 30, 1–2 pm

## Chess Challenge Games **GRADES 5–8**

Partner up for Bughouse Chess—a fast, fun team version of the classic game! In this exciting twist, speed, teamwork, and communication are just as important as strategy. Basic understanding of chess needed.

Monday, March 30, 7–8:15 pm



**3D Printing: Flowers** GRADES 6–12

Create a 3D flower design using Tinkercad.

Wednesday, April 8, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

**Coding with Ozobot** GRADES 6–8

Learn the basics of coding with our robot, Ozobot! Have fun by making Ozobot go through a maze using screen-less color coding.

Monday, April 13, 7–8:15 pm

**Kid Market Sale Day** ALL AGES

See pg. 19 for details.

Saturday, April 18, 1–3 pm

**Intro to the Sewing Machine** GRADES 6–12

Learn sewing machine basics with Ciao Bella Sewing, and make a tote bag. All materials provided. No experience required.

Wed, April 22, 4:30–6 pm or 7–8:30 pm

**Chess** GRADES 5–8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques with National Chess Master Arjun Vishnuvardhan of Glenview Chess. All experience levels welcome.

Wednesday, April 29, 6:30–7:30 pm

**Author Spotlight: Jason Reynolds** GRADES K–12

Thursday, April 30, 6–7 pm 

**Bejeweled & Booked** GRADES 6–12

Decorate book covers with rhinestones, gems, and all things sparkly. Bring your favorite book from home or choose one from our collection—either way, you'll leave with a dazzling masterpiece.

Monday, May 11, 6–7:30 pm

## Apply to be a Junior Volunteer

### STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7–12 IN THE FALL

Volunteering is a great way to contribute to your community, develop new skills, and earn service hours. During June and July, you'll help with the popular Summer Library Club by signing up patrons and presenting rewards when they complete activities.

Volunteers will be chosen via lottery from all qualifying and complete applications. If you are selected, you will receive an email from the library no later than Friday, May 1.

Starting April 7, visit [guides.VAPLD.info/teenvolunteers](https://guides.VAPLD.info/teenvolunteers) to apply online, and for more information about the program.

Applications accepted April 7–14



## Featured Resources for Elementary-aged Kids



### Bingepasses on Hoopla

Unlimited access to free online content with your library card, including Pokémon, PBS Kids, Science Squad, and more.

[VAPLD.info/Bingepass](http://VAPLD.info/Bingepass)



### Read in Other Languages

Find storybooks in languages other than English (LOTE). Thousands of audio picture books in 70+ languages with English translations.

[VAPLD.info/LOTE](http://VAPLD.info/LOTE)



### More Than Books

Explore the Library of Things Jr. collection. Check out STEM kits or Yoto mini players and cards to listen on the go.

Learn more at [VAPLD.info/LibraryOfThings](http://VAPLD.info/LibraryOfThings)

## Classes & Events for Elementary-aged Kids

*All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛️ off-site, 🟡 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.*

### Holiday Arts & Crafts **ALL AGES**

Drop in to celebrate holidays with craft projects.

Tuesday, March 3, 4–7 pm: Holi & Purim

Saturday, March 21, 11 am–2 pm: Ramadan & Eid

### Take & Make Craft Kit **ALL AGES**

Pick up instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

March 6: Monster Mash

April 3: Cherry Blossom Windsock

May 1: May Basket

### Family Concert **ALL AGES**

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am

March 7: Anne-Marie Akin

May 9: Little Miss Ann

Friday, May 29, 10–10:45 am: Little Lunas

### STEAM Workshop **GRADES 5–8**

Participate in an interactive Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math workshop led by the Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM.

Monday, March 9, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

### Intro to the Sewing Machine **GRADES 3–5**

Learn sewing machine basics and make a pillow with Ciao Bella Sewing. All materials provided. No experience required.

Wed, March 11, 4:30–5:45 pm or 6:15–7:30 pm

### Cook Along with Chef Kristyn **GRADES K–5**

Cook along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 🟡

March 13: Nailed It Challenge

April 17: Earth Day

May 15: Berry Sweets



*Squishy Circuits, March 23*

### **Captivating Chemistry GRADES K-5**

Is it a chemical reaction, or is it magic? See surprising reactions that create colors, foam, and explode with The Discovery Center Museum.

Tuesday, March 17, 5–6 pm

### **K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1-5**

Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 pm

March 18, April 15

### **Aztec Dance Cultural Performance**

**ALL AGES**

Celebrate ancient Mexico through music, song, and dance with Chicago's Xochitl-Quetzal Aztec Dance. Part of the MOSAIC cultural series.

Sunday, March 22, 1–2 pm

### **Squishy Circuits: Conductors and Insulators**

**GRADES K-5**

Learn about creating a circuit, then test to see if household items are conductors or insulators.

Monday, March 23

Grades K-2: 1–2 pm

Grades 3-5: 3–4 pm

### **Exploring Great Artists: Corita Kent GRADES K-5**

Corita Kent was an artist, educator, activist and former religious sister who championed love, hope and tolerance. Discover the power of art and love while creating art inspired by Kent.

Wednesday, March 25

Grades K-2: 1–2 pm

Grades 3-5: 3–4 pm

### **Spring STEM Sampler GRADES K-2**

Sample various scientific disciplines as you work your way through different fun spring-themed STEM stations together.

Thursday, March 26, 4:30–5:15 pm

### **Chess Challenge Games GRADES 2-8**

Partner up for Bughouse Chess! Basic understanding of chess needed.

Monday, March 30

Grades 2-4: 4:30–5:45 pm

Grades 5-8: 7–8:15 pm

### **Firefly Family Theatre Presents *The Spring Garden* AGES 2-7**

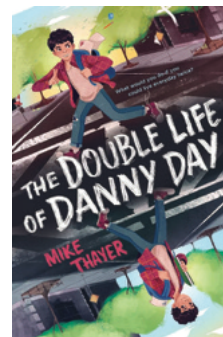
Spark the Firefly and friends share stories and songs all about spring and the power of kindness.

Tuesday, March 31, 10–10:45 am

### **Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3-5**

This parent and child book group will discuss *The Double Life of Danny Day* by Mike Thayer. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Tuesday, March 31, 7–8 pm



### **Music-Inspired Art Workshop**

**GRADES K-5**

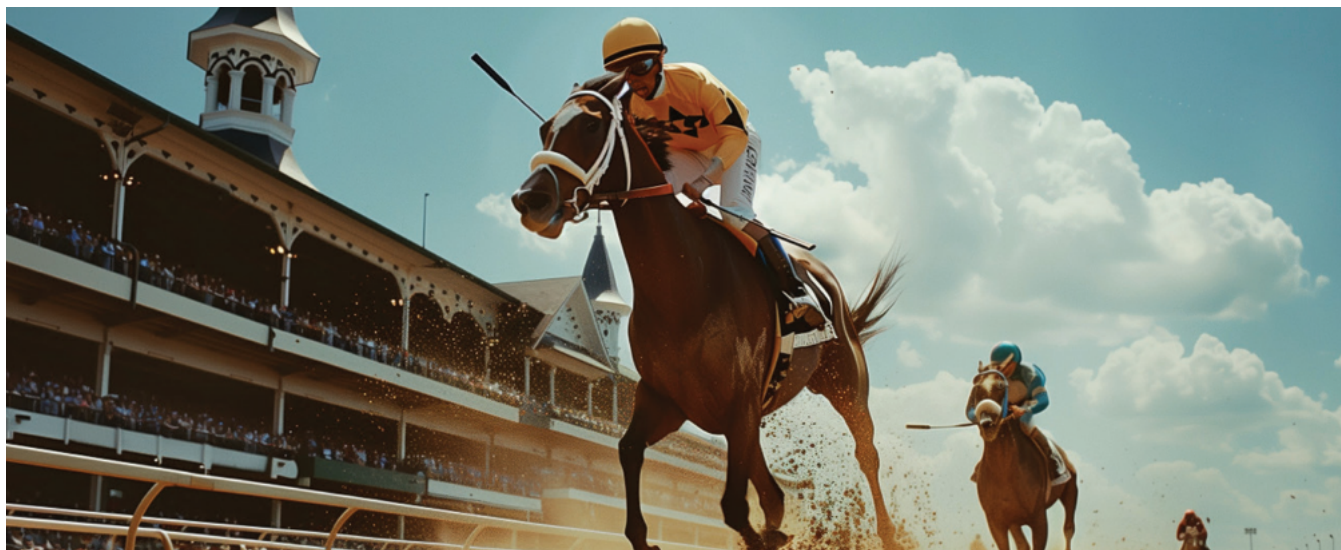
Listen to instrumental excerpts and learn how to interpret the music by creating your own visual art with Dan Laib Studios.

Tuesday, April 7

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 6–7 pm





*Celebrate Derby Days, April 30*

### **Coding with Ozobot** GRADES 3–5

Learn the basics of coding with our robot, Ozobot! Have fun by making Ozobot go through a maze using screen-less color coding.

Monday, April 13, 4:30–5:45 pm

### **Kid Market Sale Day** ALL AGES

See pg. 19 for more info.

Saturday, April 18, 1–3 pm

### **Lego Master Builders** GRADES K–5

Love building with Legos? Work through a challenge, then let your imagination run wild during free building time.

Tuesday, April 21, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

### **Calvin Can't Fly ASL Film Screening** ALL AGES

Watch the film with a live storyteller and an American Sign Language interpreter.

Saturday, April 25, 11–11:45 am

### **Chess** GRADES 2–8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques. All levels welcome.

Wednesday, April 29

Grades 2–4: 5–6 pm

Grades 5–8: 6:30–7:30 pm

### **Celebrate Derby Days** GRADES K–5

Celebrate the Kentucky Derby with activities and craft projects.

Thursday, April 30, 4:30–5:30 pm

### **Author Spotlight: Jason Reynolds** GRADES K–12

Thursday, April 30, 6–7 pm 

### **Constructive Geometry** GRADES 3–5

This hands-on STEM program focuses on geometry, geometric shapes, and the creation of two and three-dimensional figures utilizing a multi-sensory approach with a variety of materials, including glow sticks.

Thursday, April 30, 7–7:45 pm

### **Charlotte's Web** GRADES K–5

A special, 60-minute touring theatrical version of the beloved literary classic, *Charlotte's Web*, adapted from E.B. White's novel by Joseph Robinette. Presented by Three Brothers Theatre.

Saturday, May 2, 11 am–12 pm

### **Create Art: Mother's Day Special**

GRADES K–5

Enjoy this special parent/caregiver and me painting session where participants will create tulips in celebration of Mother's Day.

Tuesday, May 5

Grades K–2: 4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

### **Spring STEM Storytime: From Scraps to Soil** GRADES K–2

Read *Worm Makes a Sandwich* together as a group, then learn about soil and composting with a related STEM activity.

Thursday, May 7, 4:30–5:15 pm





# Small Starts, Big Futures

Building the next generation of business leaders at the library







## Vernon Area Library Kid Market

### Highlights from 2025 Market Participants



**Shop Owner:** Adyha

**Product:** puppy keychains  
made from eggshells

**Something I Learned:**

"How to talk to people when they come to my stall, how to explain my business, how to interact with customers."



**Shop Owner:** Clara

**Product:** origami earrings

**Something I Learned:**

"You have to plan a lot to think about how to get attention and what to say when people come to you."

This spring, over forty local students voluntarily took on extra homework from the library. Not for a grade, but as a jump-start to their entrepreneurial ambitions—and possibly for profit.

"Kid Market" is an annual mini-business school experience for students in grades 3–8. Students applied to participate with their business ideas, and if accepted, completed weekly lessons on a mix of topics, including both business and life skills, accompanied by feedback and encouragement from Vernon Area Business Librarian Ashley Johnson.

"I hope this program opens kids' eyes to the joys of business ownership and demystifieds and educates them on what it takes to be an entrepreneur," said Johnson. "A great idea is priceless, and passion in what you do is what life is all about."

At the end of the lessons, participants put learning into practice by selling their products at a farmers market-style event at the library. The sale day provides an opportunity for the Kid Marketers to showcase their products and put their new business skills into action. Past product offerings have included everything from home decor, keychains, jewelry, bookmarks, and more. Many students decided to donate a portion of their earnings to charity.

"I saw the Kid Market as an opportunity to expand my passion," said 2025 participant Tanvi. "[Through the lessons] I learned you shouldn't be disappointed when someone walks away from you. It's just business, and you should always stay encouraged and never give up."

This year's Kid Market Sale Day will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 1–3 p.m. at the library. All are invited to support these young business owners. Shoppers may want to come prepared with small bills and lots of appreciation.

*Tanvi with one of  
her products.*



Learn more at [VAPLD.info/KidMarket](https://VAPLD.info/KidMarket)



# Classes & Events for Early Childhood

## Drop In

*It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun! Free and open to all. All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted.*

### **Baby Rhyme Storytime** 0–14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes, and books with Ms. Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30–10:15 am

March 4, 11, 25; April 1, 8, 22; May 6, 13, 27

### **Wiggling Ones** 12–24 MONTHS

Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

March 3, 10, 17; April 7, 14, 21; May 5, 12, 19

### **Together 2s & 3s** 2–3 YEARS

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

March 2, 9, 16, 23; April 6, 13, 20; May 4, 11, 18

### **Preschool Storytime** 3–5 YEARS

Practice language, listening, and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten with Miss Emily. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9, 16; May 7, 14, 21



*Preschool Storytime*

### **Starry Night Storytime** AGES 0–6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6–6:30 pm

March 19, April 23, May 21

### **Holiday Arts & Crafts** ALL AGES

Drop in to celebrate holidays with craft projects.

Tuesday, March 3, 4–7 pm: Holi & Purim

Saturday, March 21, 11 am–2 pm: Ramadan & Eid

### **Take & Make Craft Kits** ALL AGES

Pick up instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

March 6: Monster Mash

April 3: Cherry Blossom Windsock

May 1: May Basket

### **Ukulele Sing-Along** AGES 0–6

Sing and dance to favorite children's tunes with Miss Julia.

Tue, March 24, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

### **Spring Dance Celebration** AGES 0–5

Dance away the winter blues with this high-energy, cheerful romp into spring.

Friday, March 27, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

### **Saturday Storytime** AGES 0–6

Expert librarians use books, songs, and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms, and everyone in between!

Saturday, April 11, 10–10:30 am

## Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar), by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted.

### Family Concert **ALL AGES**

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am

March 7: Anne-Marie Akin

May 9: Little Miss Ann

Friday, May 29, 10–10:45 am: Little Lunas

### Science Detectives **AGES 3–6**

This literature-based program encourages children and their adults to discover the world around them by engaging in hands-on science activities.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am

March 13: Moon

April 10: Earth

May 8: Llamas

### Sunshine Squad **AGES 0–6**

Stories and activities focused on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation make the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

10–10:45 am

Saturday, March 14: Let's Share

Wednesday, April 29: Try, Try Again

Friday, May 22: Cultural Pride

### Mini Math Magicians **AGES 3–5**

Explore math concepts through books, games, and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am

March 26, April 23

### Firefly Family Theatre presents *The Spring Garden* **AGES 2–7**

Spark the Firefly and friends share stories and songs about spring and the power of kindness.

Tuesday, March 31, 10–10:45 am



*Little Lunas, May 29*

### Calvin Can't Fly ASL Film Screening

**ALL AGES**

Watch the film with a live storyteller and an American Sign Language interpreter.

Saturday, April 25, 11–11:45 am

### Oaks & Acorns Storytime at Sunrise of Buffalo Grove **AGES 0–5**

Bring your little acorn to a very special storytime at a local assisted living facility. Home residents join an intergenerational experience that brings joy to everyone through song, stories and instruments.

Tuesday, April 28, 10–11 am

 Sunrise of Buffalo Grove

### Bilingual Japanese Storytime **AGES 0–6**

Stories, songs, and an introduction to Japanese in this interactive story time with The Language Labs.

Thursday, May 28, 10–10:30 am

**Vernon Area Public Library**  
300 Olde Half Day Rd.  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

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### Connect

[VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info)

**Main:** 847-634-3650

**App:** Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

**Socials:**    

Follow @vernonlibrary for updates and fun content

### Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at [VAPLD.info/card](http://VAPLD.info/card) or visit.

### Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes:  
[VAPLD.info/bookdrops](http://VAPLD.info/bookdrops)

### Open

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Mon-Thur</b> | 9 am – 9 pm  |
| <b>Fri-Sat</b>  | 9 am – 5 pm  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 10 am – 5 pm |

### Closed

April 5  
April 24, opens at 1 pm  
May 24-25

*Photos & videos may be taken at programs in the library. If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify staff.*



*This magazine is printed on recycled paper made of 30% post-consumer waste.*



### ▲ Shoe Recycling Apr 19–May 3

Drop off new, gently used, or worn shoes for reuse or recycling with SWALCO. Shoes must be tied or banded together in pairs. Find collection bins in the lobby. For details on what is accepted, visit [VAPLD.info/ShoeRecycling](http://VAPLD.info/ShoeRecycling)